

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **LOS ANGELES**

FILE NO. **100-18355**

REPORT MADE AT <b>LOS ANGELES</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>12/9/43</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>11/19, 20, 26-29/43</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>JAMES G. FINDLAY</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>KPM</b></span>
TITLE <b>HOLLYWOOD DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>INTERNAL SECURITY - C</b>

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**

**GEORGE PEPPER**, Executive Secretary of the **HOLLYWOOD DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE**, visited **ELIZABETH LEACH**, Organizer for the Northwest Section of the Los Angeles County CP and conferred on the activities of the **HOLLYWOOD DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE**. **HOLLYWOOD DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE**, Beverly Hills - Westwood Democratic Committee determined by Source B to have no connection with the Democratic Party setup. **HOLLYWOOD DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE** urges greater child care in wartime for working mothers. Unity for Political Action Committee formed in AFL. Attitude toward Secretary of State **CORDELL HULL** stated. Current activities of **HOLLYWOOD DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE** set forth in **TARGET FOR TODAY**. **HOLLYWOOD DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE** now has four branches: Valley Democratic Committee; Beachwood Democratic Committee; Fairfax Democratic Committee; and Beverly Hills - Westwood Democratic Committee.

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**REFERENCE:**

Report of Special Agent **JAMES G. FINDLAY**, Los Angeles, California, October 4, 1943.

**DETAILS:**

**AT LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA**

A review of the files and investigation reveals the following activities of subject organization.

Source A has informed that on November 5, 1943, **GEORGE PEPPER**, Executive Secretary of the **HOLLYWOOD DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE**, visited **ELIZABETH LEACH**, Organizer for the Northwest Section of the Los Angeles County

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Communist Party, on which occasion PEPPER told LEACH that there was a meeting scheduled for November 8, 1943, and that the following persons would be there:

HARPO MARK  
GROUCHO MARK  
IRVING PICHEL  
MARC CONNELLY

He stated that many others would also be present, whose names Source did not remember.

Source A stated that this organization was planning to have a mass meeting, the object of which was to make arrangements, if possible, to send a delegation to Washington, D. C., on anti-Semitism.

Source A further revealed that GEORGE PEPPER advised ELIZABETH LEACH that the HOLLYWOOD DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE had sent a wire to Congress urging the passage of the Poll Tax Bill. This wire was signed by thirty-five persons, including the following:

WALTER ABEL  
WALTER HUSTON  
HARPO MARK  
GROUCHO MARK  
JOHN GARFIELD  
FRANCHOT TONE  
MARC CONNELLY  
EDWARD G. ROBINSON  
Mrs. EDWARD G. ROBINSON.

Source B advised that he was supposed to know all Democrats and all Democratic organizations in Beverly Hills; that when he heard of an organization calling itself the Beverly Hills - Westwood Democratic Committee, he made some inquiry and learned that this Committee had no connection with or relation to the Democratic Party setup or organization, but that it was being sponsored by the HOLLYWOOD DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE, and that DON KING, 4183 Saltillo Street, Woodland Hills, California, PAUL WEBSTER, 260 South Crescent Drive and 125 North Palm Drive, telephone - Crestview 6-7687, and ROBERT T. WILKERSON, 433A Shirley Place, Beverly Hills, telephone - Crestview 1-5843, were the parties behind it. Source B said that he learned that they were holding occasional meetings. This source further learned that a meeting had been held in Room 300, at the Beverly Hills High School on November 16, 1943. The School Board required them to sign a pledge that they were not Communists before they were allowed to hold the meeting in the school.

do something about it' than you'd think. In just the last few weeks we've grown from 525 to over 700 members. Figure it out percentage-wise and it's pretty impressive....Are you going to do your share to help us grow?.....The Target, by the way, has jumped its circulation from 1000 to 1700....And 67 people have pledged \$5 a month until Nov. '44 toward our work....Goal—200 ....help us get them!....The anti-poll tax bill has been pushed another step toward cloture by a joint HDC wire to the Senate Judiciary Comm., signed by Virginia Bruce, Edward G. Robinson, John Garfield, Marc Connelly, Mary McCall, Lewis Milestone, George Burns, Franchot Tene, Harpo and Groucho Marx, Jerome Kern, Ira Gershwin, Walter Abel, Arch Obler, Walter Huston, James and Russel Gleason, Gloria Stuart, and many others....we were in the thick of the fight against racial discrimination regarding housing for Negro war workers in Watts....have reasons to believe the Klan is busy out there....City Council must take a positive position against discrimination....Large scale plans now being formulated for a brilliant meeting at the Shrine soon....Subject: Contributions of Minority Peoples to the War Effort....details in next 'Target'....Letter from the White House indicating the President is personally interested in our work!....We hope that what we are doing meets with your approval....If not, phone and tell us....If so, phone and volunteer so that we can do more."

Source C has observed the activities of this organization from its inception.

Source C has furnished the following information relative to the personnel of the HOLLYWOOD DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE and the activities of that Committee:

This organization has now developed into the leading Communist Front group operating in the Hollywood and Southern California area political field. Its active membership has now grown to over 700, the majority of whom are representatives of other groups, labor unions, social clubs, women's organizations, cultural groups, etc. In addition to this increase in membership, this committee has established branches in other localities, all linked with and subordinate to the control of the parent group, the Hollywood Democratic Committee, as follows:

Valley Democratic Committee. Located in North Hollywood - San Fernando Section.

Beechwood Democratic Committee. Hollywood Hills Section.

Fairfax Democratic Committee. Wilshire-Fairfax Section.

JOHN GARFIELD, Screen Actor, C (Communist);

MARC CONNELLY, CPLF, Writer, member of  
League of American Writers;

MARY McCALL, CPLF, Writer, League of  
American Writers;

LEWIS MILESTONE, C, Director;

GEORGE BURNS, real name - GEORGE BIRNBAUM (member  
of BURNS & ALLEN Radio Actors); was prosecuted  
for Income Tax Evasion and paid fine of \$8,000;

FRANCHOT TONE, C, Screen Actor;

HARPO MARX, CPLF, Actor;

GROUCHO MARX, CPLF, Actor;

JEROME KERN, CPLF, Composer and Song Writer;

IRA GERSHWIN, CPLF, Musician;

WALTER ABEL, CPLF, Screen Actor;

ARCH OBOLER, CPLF, Radio Writer;

WALTER HUSTON, CPLF, Screen Actor;

JAMES GLEASON, CPLF, Screen Actor;

RUSSELL GLEASON, CPLF, Screen Actor;

GLORIA STUART, C, Screen Actress.

Every one of the above persons with exception of GEORGE  
BURNS have long records as followers of the Communist Party Line and members  
of Communist Front Organizations.

In addition to the foregoing activities within its own  
organization, the HOLLYWOOD DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE cooperates with all other  
Communist front organizations in the locality such as the following:

LEAGUE OF AMERICAN WRITERS  
COMMITTEE FOR THE CARE OF CHILDREN IN WARTIME  
HOLLYWOOD LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS